

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Prior Application Examiner
N. JohnsonArt Unit
1642Docket No.
USD 93 AG IDM
DIV. 2**To the Assistant Commissioner for Patents:**

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of:

Mohamed CHOKRI and Jacques BARTHOLEYNS corresponding to patent application 08/896,498, filed July 18, 1997, which is a division of S.N. 08/374,629, filed January 17, 1995, entitled: MACROPHAGES, PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE SAME AND THEIR USE AS ACTIVE SUBSTANCES OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS.

Enclosed are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 16 pages of specification. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1 sheet of formal drawings. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a newly-executed declaration of the inventor. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a copy of an executed declaration of the inventors from prior application Serial No. 08/896,498, filed July 18, 1997. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | incorporation by reference. The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied as indicated in the preceding box, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The prior application was assigned to I.D.M. Immuno-Designed Molecules, in an assignment recorded on January 17, 1995 on Reel 7389, frame 947. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | copies of the Information Disclosure Statement citations. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | preliminary amendment. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | return receipt postcard (MPEP 503), specifically itemized. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a verified statement to establish small entity status filed in prior application. Status is still proper and desired. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The certified copy of foreign application No. , filed , in has been filed in prior application Serial No. , filed . |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | other: Inventor Information Sheet. |

If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information.

☐ Continuation ☒ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)
of prior application No. 08/896,498, filed July 18, 1997.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Customer No. 000466. |
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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER
(continued)

Docket No.
USD 93 AG IDM MAK
DIV. 2

CLAIMS AS FILED

	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA	RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE			\$ 760	\$ 760
TOTAL CLAIMS	2 - 20 =	0	X\$ 18	0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	1 - 3 =	0	X\$ 78	0
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT			\$ 260	

TOTAL \$760

If applicant has small entity status under 37
CFR 1.9 and 1.27, then divide total fee by 2,
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**SMALL ENTITY
TOTAL**

\$380

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A check in the amount of \$380 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over- payments to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 in the name of Young & Thompson, as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charge the amount of \$ as filing fee.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Credit any overpayment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Charge any additional fee required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, during the pendency of this application.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charge the issue fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance.


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May 4, 1999

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Title Line One:: MACROPHAGES, PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE
Title Line Two:: SAME AND THEIR USE AS ACTIVE SUBSTANCES
Title Line Three:: OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS
Total Drawing Sheets:: 1
Formal Drawings:: Y
Application Type:: UTILITY
Docket Number:: USD 93 AG IDM MAK DIV.2

Representative Customer Number:: 000466

CONTINUITY INFORMATION

This application is a::

>Application One::

Filing Date::

Patent Number::

which is a::

>>Application Two::

Filing Date::

Patent Number::

DIVISION

08/896,498

JULY 18, 1997

DIVISION

08/374,629

JANUARY 17, 1995

5,662,899

08/896,498

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Mohamed CHOKRI et al.

Division of S.N. 08/896,498

Filed May 4, 1999

MACROPHAGES, PROCESS FOR PREPARING
THE SAME AND THEIR USE AS ACTIVE
SUBSTANCES OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend
the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 5, insert the following:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a division of copending applica-
tion Serial No. 08/896,498, filed July 18, 1997, which is a
division of Patent No. 5,662,899.--

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

By



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May 4, 1999

NEW MACROPHAGES, PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE SAME AND THEIR USE AS ACTIVE SUBSTANCES OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS.

5

Technical field

The invention relates to new macrophages, to a process for preparing the same and to their use as active substances of pharmaceutical compositions.

10

Background art

Cytotoxic leukocytes (NK, T lymphocytes, monocytes-macrophages) are potent effectors in the host defense against tumors. *In vitro* expansion and enhancement of the tumoricidal potential of autologous effector cells and their subsequent reinfusion into the host are currently being used in local or systemic adoptive immunotherapy (Rosenberg et al.: Progress report on the treatment of 157 patients with advanced cancer using LAK cells and IL2 or IL3 alone. N. Engl. J. Med. 316: 889, 1990; Rosenberg et al.: Use of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes and IL2 in the immunotherapy of patients with metastatic melanoma. N. Engl. J. Med. 319: 1676, 1990; Lacerna et al.: Adoptive cancer immunotherapy utilizing lymphokine activated killer cells and IFN- γ activated killer lymphocytes. Pharm. Ther. 38: 453, 1988).

Macrophages play a central role in the antitumoral response and can be activated against neoplastic cells by immunopotentiators (Adams D. and Hamilton T.: Activation of macrophages for tumor cell kill: effector mechanism and regulation. In Heppner & Fulton (eds), Macrophages and cancer. CRC Press, 1988, p. 27; Fidler I.: Macrophages and metastases. A biological approach to cancer therapy. Cancer Res. 45: 4714, 1985).

In murine models, it has been demonstrated that activated macrophages given locally in the tumor inhibited tumor growth and decreased metastatic development (Bartholeyns et al.: Immunotherapy of cancer: experimental approach with activated macrophages proliferating in culture. Cancer Detect. & Prev. 12: 413, 1988; Chokri et al.: Antitumoral effect of LPS, TNF, IFN and activated macrophages: synergism and tissue distribution. Anticancer Res. 9: 1185, 1989). Human monocytes isolated from blood could be differentiated *in vitro* into macrophages by a 7 day culture in hydrophobic bags (Chokri et al.: Antitumoral effects of LPS, TNF, IFN, and activated macrophages: synergism and tissue distribution. Anticancer Res. 9: 1185, 1989). After incubation in the presence of IFN- γ , these macrophages became activated and tumoricidal, (Macrophages

activated killer = MAK) for a number of human tumors *in vitro* or for tumors engrafted in nude mice (Andreesen et al.: Surface phenotype analysis of human monocytes to macrophages differentiation. J. Leuk. Biol. 47: 490, 1990; Dumont et al.: Control of the antitumoral activity of human macrophages produced in large amount in view of adoptive transfer. Eur. J. Cancer 24: 1691, 1988).

Adoptive transfer of MAK has undergone phase I clinical trials by different investigators in Strasbourg, Freiburg and Paris for patients with metastatic cancer infused systematically or intraperitoneally with 10^8 to 2×10^9 autologous MAK (Andreesen et al.: Adoptive transfer of tumor cytotoxic macrophages generated in vitro from circulating monocytes: a new approach to cancer immunotherapy. Cancer Res. 50: 7450, 1990; Bartholeyns et al. Adoptive immunotherapy of solid tumors with activated macrophages: experimental and clinical results. Anticancer Res. 11: 1201, 1991; Lopez et al.: One step separation by elutriation of monocytes from leukapheresis products of cancer patients for production of IFN- γ activated macrophages in view of adoptive immunotherapy. J. Immunotherapy, 11: 209, 1992; Faradji et al.: Phase I trial of IV infusion of *ex-vivo* activated blood derived macrophages in patient with non small cell lung cancer: toxicity and immunomodulatory effects. Cancer Immunol. Immunother. 33: 319, 1991).

The clinical tolerance was excellent with minor side effects such as low grade fever and chills. The maximal tolerated dose could not be attained due to the limited number of MAK generated from one cytapheresis.

The recovery of larger quantities of MAK is therefore a need for optimal antitumoral efficacy in clinical trials and in therapy.

The macrophages prepared thus far in the conventional culture medium are obtained in a yield which is less than about 40 %.

However, the need for macrophages presenting a higher cytotoxic activity is present in order to increase the efficacy *in vivo* and, subsequently, to delay the next macrophage administration.

Disclosure of the invention

One of the aims of the invention is to provide macrophages having a higher cytotoxic activity over standard macrophages.

Another aim of the invention is to provide macrophages in which the kinetics of the deactivation of the cytotoxic activity are slower with respect to standard macrophages.

Another aim of the invention is to provide a new culture medium which enables to prepare macrophages having an improved cytotoxic activity and slower deactivation kinetics of the cytotoxic activity with respect to standard macrophages.

The aims of the present invention are achieved by macrophages which have at least one of the following properties:

- their cytotoxic activity without activation with IFN- γ is increased by about 20 to 30 % with respect to standard macrophages, and is preferably of about 70 %;
- 5 - their cytotoxic activity further to activation with IFN- γ is increased by about 20 to about 40 % with respect to standard macrophages, and is preferably of about 93 %;
- the extension of the deactivation time of the cytotoxic activity in reply to an activation of IFN- γ is in a ratio such that after 60h of activation with IFN- γ , the
- 10 cytotoxic activity is higher than or equal to 30 %, preferably of about 55 %, compared to the maximum cytotoxic activity presented by the macrophages further to an activation with IFN- γ , with said cytotoxic activity being measured as the percentage of inhibition of 3-H thymidine incorporation by target tumoral cells, particularly U 937 cells.

15 The expression "standard macrophages" corresponds to the ones obtained by the culture of monocytes in a standard medium, such as defined in the Example section.

The "cytotoxic activity" corresponds to the one measured as the percentage of inhibition of 3-H thymidine incorporation by target tumoral cells, particularly

20 U937 cells, and a test for this measure is hereafter given:

Differentiated macrophages were seeded into 96-well flat microtiter plates at 10^4 macrophages/well in 0.2 ml. After 2h incubation at 37°C in 5 % CO₂ humidified atmosphere, the medium was removed and replaced by IMDM + 5 % hu AB serum containing or not 250 U/ml of rhu IFN γ ; plates were further

25 incubated overnight. After washing, 10^4 U937 tumor cells in 0.2 ml fresh medium (IMDM + 10 % FCS) were added to each well. After 24h contact, 0.1 μ Ci of tritiated thymidine was added to each well for a further 24h incubation.

The cells were collected and the determination of incorporated radioactivity on the fiber glass filters was carried out by β counting. The percentage inhibition

30 of thymidine incorporation by tumor cells could be calculated according to the formula:

$$\frac{(\text{cpmT} - \text{cpmTM}) \times 100}{\text{cpmT}}$$

where cpmT = radioactivity in control tumor cells.

35 cpmTM = radioactivity in tumor cells + macrophages mixed culture.

It is to be noted that such method enables to determine the three main types of antitumoral activity of the macrophages described in the invention, i.e.: cytotoxicity, cytostasis and phagocytosis.

The macrophages originate from human subjects, who can be either healthy or patients suffering from various diseases.

By way of example, standard macrophages originating from culture of monocytes from healthy subjects present a spontaneous cytotoxic activity (i.e. without activation with IFN- γ) of about 45 %, versus about 70 %, in the case of the macrophages of the invention; and further to IFN- γ activation, standard macrophages present a cytotoxic activity of about 76 %, versus about 93 %, in the case of the macrophages of the invention.

Similar enhancement of cytotoxic activity is obtained with macrophages issued from patients.

As to the kinetics of the deactivation time, table I hereafter gathers the results relative to the measure of the activity as described above in the case of standard macrophages and of macrophages of the invention.

From the above-mentioned properties, the advantages of the macrophages of the invention appear, knowing that cytotoxic activity below 50 % is useless for therapeutics.

The macrophages of the invention are such that they make a weekly treatment possible, instead of a treatment every three or four days.

According to a preferred embodiment, the macrophages of the invention have the following characteristics:

- their size is from about 10 to about 20 μm ;
- they adhere to plastic surface;
- their viability is preferably higher than about 70 %;
- they present a phagocytosis property;
- they present on their surface antigens of differentiation, such as CD64, CD68, MAX1, HLADR ;
- their cytotoxic activity is higher than about 50 %;
- the macrophages of the invention are advantageously free of bacterial and biological contaminants.

When the size of the macrophages is higher than 20 μm , it means that they tend to fuse between one another to form giant cells, the role of which is not clearly understood; when the size is smaller than 10 μm , it means that the macrophages are not well differentiated.

The size can be measured with a channelyser (Coulter Margency - France)

The adherence property to plastic surface can be verified on Petri dishes (% adherence) after 30 minutes of incubation of the produced macrophages.

The viability is the number of alive cells at the end of the culture, and the viability is preferably higher than about 70 % and is measured by the Trypan Blue exclusion.

The phagocytosis property can be checked by ingestion of latex beads or dextran particles (30 minutes to 1h of incubation), as described by Stevenson and Fauci, Manual of Macrophages methodology; Marcel Dekker, N.Y. pp. 75-80, 1981.

The surface antigens of differentiation such as CD64, CD68, MAX 1, HLADR are expressed at a similar or higher level with respect to standard macrophages; this can be measured by flow cytometry. Table II hereafter gives the results of phenotypes obtained under different conditions.

From this table, it can be concluded that the macrophages of the invention have new properties but the main functions of macrophages have not been altered, with the exception of the increase of the cytotoxic activity.

However, the CD71 which is the transferrin receptor is decreased in the presence of VitD₃ + GM-CSF which correlates with an advanced activation status of the macrophages. The CD71 expression is determined as described in the Example section.

The cytotoxic activity is determined with U937 cells, the ratio between macrophages and U937 being of 1/1.

The macrophages of the invention are advantageously devoid of viral, bacterial, fungal and biological contaminants.

The invention also relates to a process for preparing macrophages as defined above, comprising the culture of monocytes in a culture medium containing 1,25-dihydroxy D₃ vitamin and GM-CSF.

More particularly, the process of the invention comprises the culture of both monocytes and lymphocytes in a culture medium containing 1,25-dihydroxy vitamin D₃ and GM-CSF for a time sufficient to obtain differentiated macrophages, preferably for about 6 or 7 days, possibly activating the macrophages resulting from the monocytes and lymphocytes with IFN- γ , and separating the macrophages from the lymphocytes, before or after the activation with IFN- γ , preferably after IFN- γ activation, and recovering the macrophages.

According to a preferred embodiment, the process of the invention comprises the following steps:

- isolation of leukocytes from blood of healthy subjects or cancerous patients by cytapheresis, to obtain the cytapheresis products (i.e. concentrated leukocytes),
- platelet elimination, for instance by centrifugation of the cytapheresis products, to obtain a leukocyte enriched product,

- separation, in the leukocyte enriched products, of the mononuclear cells on one hand, and of the contaminating red blood cells and granulocytes on the other hand,

- culture of the mononuclear cells (monocytes + lymphocytes) in a medium containing 1,25-dihydroxy vitamin D₃ and GM-CSF for about 6 or 7 days, to obtain differentiated macrophages,

- activation of the macrophages and lymphocytes with IFN- γ for about 16h to about 24h,

- separation of the activated macrophages from the lymphocytes for instance by elutriation.

The lymphocytes can be separated from the monocytes before the culture step.

The lymphocytes can be separated from the macrophages after the culture and before the IFN- γ activation. Advantageously the macrophages and lymphocytes are separated from each other after IFN- γ activation.

In the process of the invention, D₃ vitamin is used at a concentration of 10⁻¹⁰ to about 10⁻⁷ preferably of about 10⁻⁸ M.

In the process of the invention, GM-CSF is used at a concentration of about 50 to about 1000 U/ml, particularly of about 100 to about 500 U/ml.

In the process of the invention, the culture medium is RPMI, IMDM, MEM, or DMEM.

These media are commercially available.

Advantageously, the culture medium contains indomethacin (or another cyclo-oxygenase inhibitor) or/and cimetidine (an histamine H₂ antagonist).

An advantageous process for preparing the macrophages of the invention is the following:

Cytapheresis

Leukocytes from healthy subjects or from cancerous patients are isolated from peripheral blood by cytapheresis using either the Cobe 2997 or the Dideco Vivacell continuous-flow blood cell separators. The cytapheresis product is centrifuged for 10 min at 280g in order to reduce platelet contamination. The platelet-enriched plasma is removed and leukocyte pellet resuspended in a phosphate buffer solution (PBS) containing 0.1 % glucose, 0.17 % PO₃HNa₂, 2H₂O, 0.27 % PO₃H₂Na, 0.14 % NH₄Cl, 0.78 % NaCl (solution TS745 laboratoire Bruneau, France).

The enriched leukocyte pellet is obtained with an average of 7 to 9 x 10⁹ leukocytes (50 % of mononuclear cells).

Isolation of mononuclear cells

Human mononuclear cells are separated from red blood cells and from contaminating granulocytes, by 15 min centrifugation at 1000g on a COBE 2991 or Stericell cell processor using Ficoll Paque of density 1.077 (Pharmacia). After 3 washings in phosphate buffered saline solution without calcium and magnesium, the monocytes are obtained with about 50 % purity as shown by channelyser analysis (Coulter Margency-France).

Culture

Differentiated human macrophages are obtained by 7 days in culture of mononuclear cells in hydrophobic bags in Teflon or polypropylene (Dupont-J. BIO, life cell-Travenol stericell-TERUMO) at 37°C and 5 % CO₂, 95 % humidified atmosphere. Total mononuclear cells are seeded at 5.10⁶ cells/ml in Iscove modified medium (IMDM, Gibco) or equivalent medium supplemented by penicillin (100UI/ml), streptomycine (100µg/ml), L-glutamine (2mM, Gibco), pyruvic acid (2mM, Gibco), Indomethacin (5.10⁻⁶M, Sigma), cimetidine (10⁻⁶ to 10⁻⁹M), mercaptoethanol (3.10⁻⁵ M, Gibco) non essential amino-acids (1 %, Gibco) and 2-5 % of autologous or AB serum. The addition of GM-CSF (500U/ml, Shering) and/or 1,25 dihydroxy-Vit D₃ (cholecalciferol 10⁻⁸M, Roche, Basel, Sw) was done in comparative experiment.

Activation of macrophage to cytotoxicity was performed by a further 16-18h culture in presence of 250U/ml of IFN-γ (Boehringer, Ingelheim, FRG).

Elutriation

The differentiated macrophages obtained after 7 days of culture and after activation are centrifuged at 550g for 10 min and the pellet is resuspended in phosphate buffered saline solution containing 0.1 % glucose, 0.17 % PO₃HNa₂, 2H₂O, 0.27 % PO₃H₂Na, 0.14 % NH₄Cl, 0.78 % NaCl (solution TS745 laboratoire Bruneau, France) with 2 % human serum albumin (HSA, CNTS-France).

The cells are then subjected to elutriation using a Beckman J6 ME centrifuge equipped with a J5.0 rotor and a 40 ml elutriation chamber as described by Andreesen et al. (Cancer Res., 50, 1990).

The differentiated macrophages are collected at a constant rotor speed and increasing the flow rate.

The process of the invention enables to obtain a yield of macrophages higher than about 40 %, and preferably of about 76 %, with said yield being the ratio between the obtained live macrophages and the starting monocytes. This yield can be determined by cell counting and channelyser.

According to a preferred embodiment, the process of the invention is such that killed tumoral cells are added into the culture medium simultaneously with monocytes, both cells coming preferably from the same patient, preferably at the ratio of about 1 million of killed tumoral cells/ml, with said killed tumoral cells
5 being processed at the same time as macrophages.

The killed tumoral cells can then be processed simultaneously with the leukocytes, in an amount of about 1×10^6 /ml, and can be separated from the macrophages for instance at the same time as the lymphocytes, after IFN- γ activation or before IFN- γ activation, and preferably after IFN- γ activation.

10 This process allows to obtain macrophages and lymphocytes specific for the tumor, killing very efficiently *in vivo* these specific tumor cells.

The invention also relates to the macrophages liable to be obtained according to the above-defined process.

The invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions containing, as
15 active substance, macrophages as defined above.

The invention also relates to a medium containing elements necessary for the growth and differentiation of monocytes into macrophages of the invention, and in addition containing D₃ vitamin and GM-CSF.

The macrophages of the invention can be part of a kit containing:

- 20 - means for the recovery of lymphocytes and monocytes free of contaminants;
- appropriate buffer and wash solutions, and possibly appropriate means for the conservation of macrophages;
- means for preparing a culture medium for the monocytes and possibly the lymphocytes and containing 1,25-dihydroxy vitamin D₃ and GM-CSF;
25 - possibly IFN- γ .

According to an advantageous embodiment of the invention, the kit contains:

- means for recovering and centrifuging blood to obtain a leukocyte concentrate;
- means for separating lymphocytes and monocytes from the other white cells
30 and for eliminating the contaminating red cells;
- culture medium for macrophages and possibly lymphocytes with complements and particularly 1,25-dihydroxy vitamin D₃ and GM-CSF and possibly indomethacin and/or cimetidine;
- means for the separation of lymphocytes from macrophages;
35 - appropriate means for the conservation of macrophages;
- appropriate buffer and wash solutions;
- possibly IFN- γ .

By way of examples, an advantageous kit comprises the following elements:

- 1- Cytapheresis kit (Fenwal),
- 2- Transfer bag (R 20-21- Fenwal),
- 3- Kit of centrifugation under Ficoll gradient (Gradient/wash processor set Stericell-Terumo) or blood cell processor (Cobe 912-647-819),
- 5 4- Elutriation Kit (Macopharma),
- 5- Transfert Pack Unit 2L (Travenol - 4R2041),
- 6- Hydrophobic bag for cell culture (Teflon, J. BIO- lifecell, Travenol-Stericell, Terumo),
- 7- Injection bag (Travenol),
- 10 8- Phosphate buffered saline solution (solution TS745 Laboratoires Bruneau),
- 9- Ficoll-Paque (Pharmacia),
- 10- Human Albumin solution (Biotransfusion),
- 11- Culture medium (IMDM-Gibco),
- 12- Penicillin/Streptomycine (Gibco),
- 15 13- L-Glutamine (Gibco),
- 14- Non essential amino-acids (Gibco),
- 15- Pyruvic acid (Gibco),
- 16- Indomethacin (Sigma),
- 17- Mercaptoethanol (Gibco),
- 20 18- GM-CSF (Shering),
- 19- 1,25 dihydroxy-Vit D₃ (Roche, Basel, Sw),
- 20- Vial of IFN- γ (Boehringer).

The invention also relates to products containing macrophages according to the invention, and lymphocytes, as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in adoptive immunotherapy.

According to an advantageous embodiment, the products of the invention as defined above are characterised in that they contain the macrophages and the lymphocytes in a ratio of at least 1/3 -2/3 expressed in cell number.

In this embodiment, the macrophages and the lymphocytes are both injected to a patient. This can mean that:

- either the elutriation step is cancelled and the macrophages and lymphocytes are injected

* after IFN- γ activation;

* or after simultaneous IFN- γ and IL-2 activation;

- or the macrophages are separated from each other after the culture, but before activation, with macrophages being subsequently activated with IFN- γ and lymphocytes being subsequently activated with IL-2.

The invention also relates to bispecific antibodies liable to recognize an antigen of a macrophage of the invention and an antigen of a tumoral cell which is to be targetted by said macrophage.

The bispecific antibodies can be prepared as described in Chokri et al. Res. Immunol. 143 (1992).

The bispecific antibodies can be injected at the same time as the macrophages of the invention, or can be pre-incubated with macrophages before injection.

The invention also relates to a method for the treatment of cancer, comprising the administration of an appropriate amount of macrophages according to the invention, and preferably in an amount of about 2×10^9 to about 5×10^9 macrophages.

A method according to the invention for the treatment of cancer comprises the administration of lymphocytes in an amount of about 4×10^9 to about 10×10^9 lymphocytes.

The macrophages of the invention can also be used as nucleic acid and/or drug vectors. The invention thus comprises macrophages containing exogenous nucleic acids and/or drugs.

Regarding macrophages containing exogenous nucleic acids, the macrophages are prepared. By transfection, DNA coding for a cytokine or for a defective protein, or for a tumor antigen, is integrated into the macrophages and it is checked that it is expressed on the macrophages before injecting it into the patient.

The long survival of the macrophages allows the *in vivo* expression of the integrated protein genes.

Description of the figure

Figure 1 represents a schematic diagram of the production of the macrophages of the invention.

Peripheral blood taken from a healthy subject or from a patient is submitted to cytapheresis (I), which enables to obtain cytapheresis product.

Said cytapheresis product is centrifuged on Ficoll and washed (II) to yield mononuclear cells (monocytes + lymphocytes).

Said mononuclear cells are cultured (III) in an appropriate medium as defined herein, and containing autologous serum from the healthy subject or from the patient.

The culture of the mononuclear cells gives a cellular suspension which is activated (IV) and further to the activation, a step of elutriation (V) is carried out, which enables to obtain the macrophages of the invention, which are then reinjected to the patient or to the healthy subject.

The materials used for each of the steps can be the following:

- (I) : cytappheresis bag,
: ACD solution,
: calciparine,
5 : buffered saline solution,
- (II) : blood cell processor-processing set,
: Ficoll-Paque,
: transfer bag,
10
- (III) : culture bag
: Iscove modified Dulbecco medium,
: L-Glutamine,
: non essential amino acids,
15 : pyruvic acid,
: GM-CSF,
: dihydroxyvitamin D₃,
: β- mercaptoethanol,
: streptomycin,
20 : indomethacine,
: CO₂,
- (IV) : interferon-γ,
- 25 (V) : human albumin solution,
: injection bag.

EXAMPLE

I) Materials and Methods

30 *Isolation of mononuclear cells.* Leukocytes from normal thrombocyte subjects were isolated from peripheral blood cytappheresis (using the COBE 2997 or Dideco Vivacell continuous cell separator). After collection of platelets for transfusion purposes, the concentrated leukocyte apheresis residue was resuspended. Human mononuclear cells were collected by 15 minutes centrifugation at 1000g on a
35 COBE 2921 cell processor using Ficoll Paque of density 1. 077 (Pharmacia). After 3 washings in phosphate buffered saline without calcium and magnesium, mononuclear cells were obtained with 30 to 50% monocytes as shown by channelyser analysis (Coulter Margency - France).

Culture. Differentiated human macrophages were obtained by a 7 day culture of mononuclear cells in Teflon bags (Dupont-J. BIO, Les Ulis) at 37°C and 5 % CO₂, 95 % humidified atmosphere. Total mononuclear cells were seeded at 5.10⁶ cell/ml in Iscove modified Dulbecco medium (IMDM, Gibco) supplemented with penicillin (100 u.i./ml, streptomycin (100µ/ml), L-glutamine (2mM, Gibco), pyruvic acid (2mM, Gibco), Indomethacin (5.10⁻⁶M, Sigma), mercaptoethanol (3.10⁻⁵M, Gibco), non essential amino-acids (2 %, Gibco) and 5 % AB serum. It is to be noted that this medium is defined as standard medium, enabling to obtain "standard macrophages", as already mentioned above. The addition of GM-CSF (500 U/ml, Behring) and/or 1,25 dihydroxy-Vit D₃ (cholecalciferol 10⁻⁸M, Roche, Basel, Sw) was done in a comparative experiment. Activation of the macrophages to cytotoxicity was performed by a further 18h culture in the presence of 250 U/ml of IFN-γ (Boehringer, Ingelheim, FRG). The culture medium as well as the cell preparations contained less than 0.02 i.u. LPS per ml.

Elutriation. The mononuclear cells or the differentiated macrophages obtained after 7 day culture and activation were centrifuged at 550g and the pellet was resuspended in phosphate buffered saline solution containing 0.1 % glucose, 0.17 % PO₃HNa₂, 2H₂O, 0.27 % PO₃H₂Na, 0.14% NH₄Cl, 0.7 % NaCl (solution TS745 Laboratoire Bruneau, 92, France) with 2 % human serum albumin (HSA, CNTS-France). The cells were then subjected to elutriation as previously described by Lopez et al (one step separation by elutriation of monocytes from leukapheresis products of cancer patients for production of IFN-γ activated macrophages in view of adoptive immunotherapy. J. Immunotherapy, 11: 209, 1992). The elutriation method used for differentiated macrophages collected as a "rotor off" fraction was the one described by Andreessen (Andreessen et al., Adoptive transfer of tumor cytotoxic macrophages generated *in vitro* from circulating monocytes: a new approach to cancer immunotherapy. Cancer Res. 50: 7450, 1990) at a constant rotor speed and increasing flow rate.

Flow cytometry. Phenotype analysis of macrophage populations was done by flow cytometry using murine monoclonal antibodies directed against membrane proteins and revealed by FITC conjugates. The a-CD3 CD14, CD71 antibodies were from DAKO (Versailles, France), anti-HLADR from COULTER (Margency, France), anti CD64 (CNTS, France) and Max-1 antibody recognizing a membrane antigen of differentiated macrophages (Andreessen et al., Surface phenotype analysis of human monocytes to macrophages differentiation. J. Leuk. Biol. 47: 490, 1990) was a gift of Dr. Emmrich (Erlangen, Germany). Briefly: 5.10⁵ to 10⁶ cells in 0.2 % of bovine serum albumin in phosphate buffered saline were incubated on ice for 30 min in the presence of FITC labelled or unlabelled

monoclonal antibodies or the isotype immunoglobulin controls. For indirect immunofluorescence, after washing, the cells were further exposed to FITC conjugated F (ab')₂ goat anti murine IgG (Immunotech.) for 25 minutes on ice. The cells were analysed after washing by flow cytometry (EPICS Profile, Coulter).

5 The acquisition gate was set around the major population of large cells.

Tumor targets. The human histiocytic cell line U937 was maintained in suspension as a continuous line cultured in IMDM with 10 % fetal calf serum (FCS, Gibco) and used during exponential growth as target in the cytotoxicity assay.

10 *In vitro antitumoral assay.* Differentiated macrophages were seeded into 96-well flat microtiter plates at 10⁴ macrophages/well in 0.2 ml. After 2h incubation at 37°C in 5 % CO₂ humidified atmosphere, the medium was removed and replaced by IMDM + 5 % hu AB serum containing or not 250 U/ml of rhu IFN-γ; plates were further incubated for one night. After washing, 10⁴ U937 tumor cells
15 in 0.2 ml fresh medium (IMDM + 10 % FCS) were added to each well. After 24h contact, 0.1μCi of tritiated thymidine was added for a further 24h incubation to each well.

The cells were collected and the determination of incorporated radioactivity on the fiber glass filters was carried out by β counting. The % inhibition of
20 thymidine incorporation by tumor cells was calculated according the formula:

$$\frac{(\text{cpmT} - \text{cpmTM})}{\text{cpmT}} \times 100$$

where cpmT = radioactivity in control tumor cells,

cpmTM = radioactivity in tumor cells + macrophages mixed culture.

25 II) Results

Recovery of large cells with macrophage morphology after 7 day differentiation of mononuclear cells. The recovery of the mononuclear cells after one week of culture was not markedly modified by the addition of GM-CSF or (OH)₂ VitD₃. In contrast, the amount of large cells with macrophage morphology
30 was markedly enhanced in presence of GM-CSF (Table III). The addition of GM-CSF increased significantly (p<0.001) the macrophage recovery (result of 12 different cultures). The addition of (OH)₂ Vit D₃ to the culture did not enhance the amount of macrophages; however, the combination of GM-CSF + Vit D₃ allowed a reproducible high yield of macrophages (Table III).

35 Table III gathers the results obtained regarding the yield and the cytotoxic activity; the last column corresponds to macrophages of the invention.

Table III

Mean recovery and antitumoral potency of MAK produced under different conditions.

	MAK	Standard medium	+ VitD3	+GM-CSF	+VitD3 +GM-CSF
5					
10	(a) yield after 7 days	37+/-7	36+/-7	69+/-10*	76+/-11*
	(b) cytotoxic activity:				
	-IFN- γ	45+/-9	59+/-14	44+/-5	71+/-5*
15	+IFN- γ	76+/-5	76+/-7	76+/-5	93+/-2*

(a) % of macrophages to the number of monocytes seeded and standard error of 12 determinations.

(b) % inhibition of 3H-thymidine incorporation by U937 cells, mean and standard error of 8 different preparations with 5 determinations in each case: (* < 0.05 by student t test comparing values in standard medium).

Phenotype of MAK produced in the presence or absence of GM-CSF and of (OH)₂VitD₃. Mononuclear cells were fully differentiated into macrophages after 7 days of culture and activation with IFN- γ , as shown by major expression of specific differentiation antigens (Max-1, CD64, HLA-DR) (Table II). No change in the phenotypes of the antigen was observed, except for the expression of the transferrin receptor (CD71) which was decreased in the presence of GM-CSF or of GM-CSF + (OH)₂Vit D₃ (p < 0.05). This decrease of CD71 was observed in association with large differentiated cells. Control non relevant Ig used for direct and indirect fluorescence labelled respectively less than 5 % and less than 10 % of the large cells.

Table II hereafter gathers the results concerning the phenotype of macrophages obtained under various conditions; the last column corresponds to the macrophages of the invention.

Table II

Phenotype of MAK produced under various conditions.

	Standard	+GM-CSF	+VitD3	GM-CSF + VitD3
5				
CD3	25+/-8	13+/-4	19+/-7	17+/-2
CD14	91+/-6	95+/-6	85+/-10	93+/-11
10				
CD71	83+/-11	59+/-22	81+/-16	46+/-17
HLA-DR	94+/-3	96+/-2	94+/-4	95+/-1
15				
MAX-1	89+/-9	84+/-6	89+/-10	79+/-7
CD64 (FC γ RI)	95+/-4	96+/-4	96+/-4	98+/-1

20 Values are means and standard errors of 5 different experiments.

Functionality of macrophages: antitumoral activity. Macrophages differentiated in culture did not express high spontaneous antitumoral activity if not exposed to IFN- γ , except for the macrophages produced in the presence of (OH) $_2$ Vit D $_3$ +GM-CSF which spontaneously inhibited the proliferation of U937 cells. After 18 h activation with IFN- γ , MAK cells became antitumoral *in vitro* under the different culture conditions. The higher antitumoral activity was achieved more reproducibly for macrophages differentiated in the presence of VitD $_3$ +GM-CSF (Table III).

Kinetics of macrophage activation by IFN- γ . Macrophages differentiated under standard conditions were activated for antitumoral functions after 18 h contact with 250 U/ml of IFN- γ ; this antitumor activity then decreased slowly over time to reach control values after 3 to 4 days. These macrophages could be fully reactivated to high antitumor activity by re-exposure to 250 U/ml IFN- γ .

Macrophages differentiated in the presence of GM-CSF+(OH) $_2$ VitD $_3$ presented a higher antitumoral activity than the control; after activation with 250 U/ml IFN- γ they maintained this antitumoral activity at a high level, even after 2 to 3 days in culture. Indeed, 60h after activation the inhibition of thymidine incorporation by U937 tumor cells was 28 ± 3 % for macrophages compared to

54±2 % for macrophages exposed to GM-CSF and (OH)₂ VitD₃ (p<0.01 mean of 3 experiments). A new exposure of these cultured macrophages to 250U/ml rh IFN-γ increased the antitumor potency to more than 80 % inhibition of thymidine uptake by U937 cells at 1/1 effector/tumor ratio (mean of 3 different experiments).

Table I hereafter gathers the results relative to kinetics, and compares standard macrophages and macrophages of the invention.

Table I

Kinetics of macrophages deactivation after IFN-γ exposure for 18 h.

Time after IFN-γ activation (h) % inhibition of 3-H Thymidine
incorporation by U937

	standard macrophages	macrophages of the invention
0	17 +/- 2	43 +/- 3
18	55 +/- 5	73 +/- 3
40	31 +/- 7	53 +/- 2
65	28 +/- 3	54 +/- 2

The results given are the means of 3 experiments.

In this table:

- . at time 0, there is no IFN-γ activation;
- . time 18 : 18 h after the start of IFN-γ activation, which corresponds to the end of activation; macrophages are no longer in the presence of IFN-γ;
- . time 40: 40 h after the start of IFN-γ activation;
- . time 65: 65 h after the start of IFN-γ activation.

It is to be noted that the maximum of cytotoxic activity is obtained further to an activation with IFN-γ lasting between about 16h and about 24h.

What is claimed is:

1. Bispecific antibodies which recognize both a) an antigen of predetermined macrophages, and b) an antigen of a tumoral cell to be targeted by said predetermined macrophages, wherein said predetermined macrophages have at least one of the following properties:

- their cytotoxic activity without IFN- γ is increased by about 20 to 30% with respect to standard macrophages;

- their cytotoxic activity with IFN- γ is increased by about 20 to about 40% with respect to standard macrophages;

- deactivation of the cytotoxic activity following activation of IFN- γ is such that sixty hours after activation with IFN- γ , the residual cytotoxic activity is at least 30% of the maximum cytotoxic activity presented by the macrophages due to IFN- γ activation, with said cytotoxic activity being measured as a percentage of the inhibition of 3-H thymidine incorporation by target tumoral cells, particularly U 937 cells.

2. A method for treating cancer, comprising administering to a patient in need of said treatment an effective amount of the bispecific antibodies according to claim 1.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The invention relates to macrophages which have at least one of the following properties: their cytotoxic activity without IFN- γ is increased by about 20 to 30% with respect to standard macrophages, and is preferably of about 70%; their cytotoxic activity with IFN- γ is increased by about 20 to about 40% with respect to standard macrophages, and is preferably of about 93%; the extension of the deactivation of the cytotoxic activity in reply to an activation of IFN- γ is in a ratio such that after 60h of activation with IFN- γ , the cytotoxic activity is higher than or equal to 30%, preferably of about 55%, compared to the maximum cytotoxic activity presented by the macrophages due to IFN- γ activation, with said cytotoxic activity being measured as the percentage of inhibition of 3-H thymidine incorporation by target tumoral cells, particularly U 937 cells.

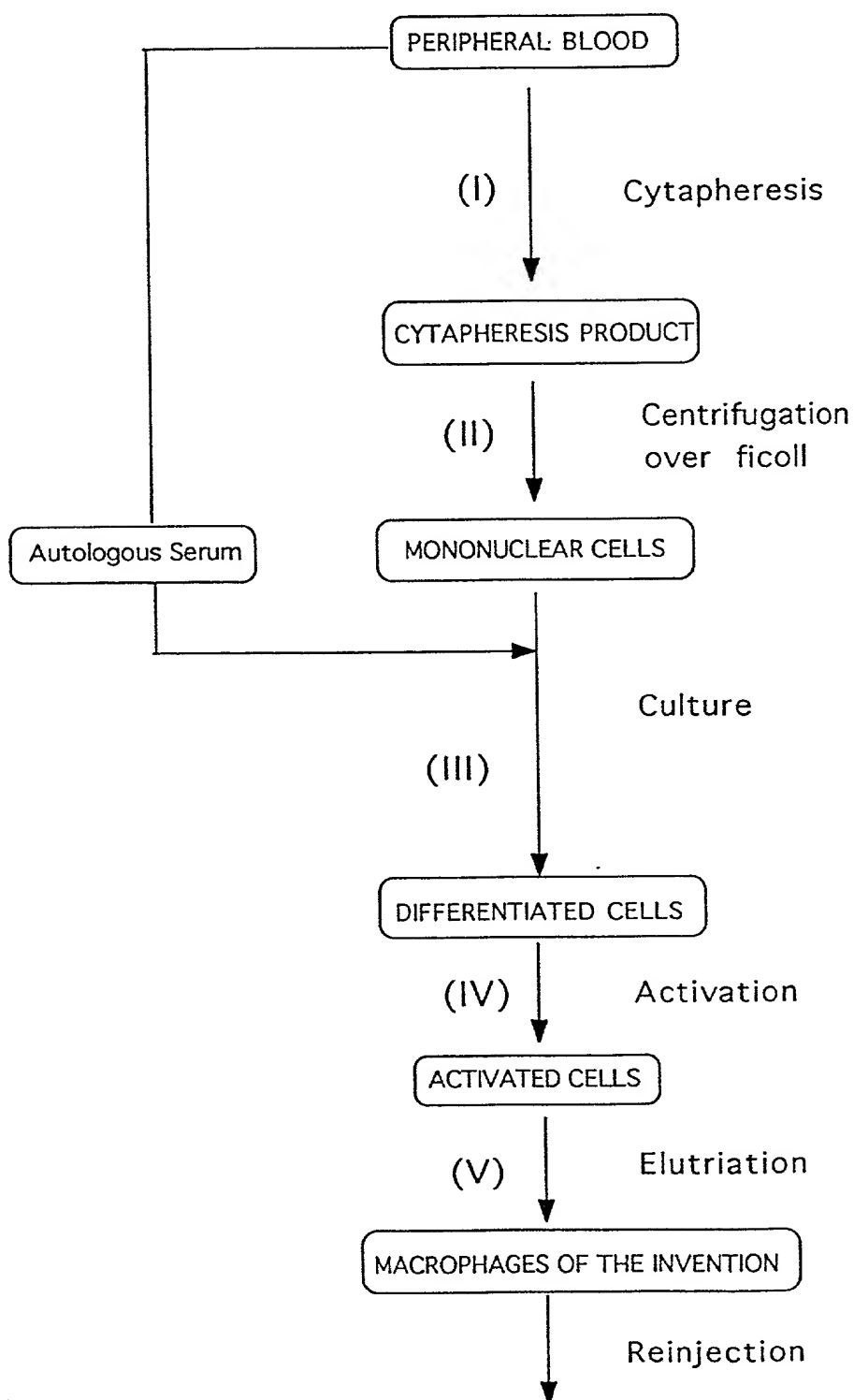
PRODUCTION OF HUMAN ACTIVATED MACROPHAGES

Figure 1

COPY

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

MACROPHAGES, PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE SAME AND THEIR USE AS ACTIVE SUBSTANCES OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

the specification of which: *(check one)*

REGULAR OR DESIGN APPLICATION

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- ☒ was filed on July 18, 1997 as application Serial No. 08/896,498 and was amended on February 17, 1998 (if applicable).

PCT FILED APPLICATION ENTERING NATIONAL STAGE

- ☐ was described and claimed in International application No. filed on and as amended on (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

PRIORITY CLAIM

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Country	Application Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)	Priority Claimed

(Complete this part only if this is a continuing application.)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

08/374,629

(Application Serial No.)

January 17, 1995

(Filing Date)

patented

(Status--patented, pending, abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorney or agent named herein to accept and follow instructions from Grosset-Fournier & Demachy as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney or agent and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney or agent named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: **Robert J. PATCH, Reg. No. 17,355, Andrew J. PATCH, Reg. No. 32,925, Robert F. HARGEST, Reg. No. 25,590, Benoît CASTEL, Reg. No. 35,041, Eric JENSEN, Reg. No. 37,855, Thomas W. PERKINS, Reg. No. 33,027, and Roland E. LONG, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949, c/o YOUNG & THOMPSON, Second Floor, 745 South 23rd Street, Arlington, Virginia 22202.**

Address all telephone calls to Young & Thompson at 703/521-2297.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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